The Wool Crop.

For some years the department of agriculture has failed to publish any estimate of the sheep industry and wool clip of the United States. Business men are forced to place entire reliance on the annual report of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. During the current month such a report will be forthcoming. From a summary given in advance it appears that the wool crop in the United States for 1898 was 266,720,684 pounds, against 259,153,251 pounds in 1897. Oregon shows the largest yield, 21,291,872 pounds of washed and unwashed wool, and, next to Washington, shows the largest percentage of shrinkage in scouring, or 71 per cent. Montana follows, with 20,935,105 pounds and 62 per cent shrinkage; California, 16,932,993 pounds and 66 per cent shrinkage: Texas, 16,380,442 and 70 per cent; Wyoming, 13,626,704 pounds; New Mexico, 12,338,420 pounds; Ohio, 12,114,953; Colorado, 9,958,839, and Michigan, 8,-856,122.

The amount of pulled wool is estimated at 22,116,371 pounds, making a total of 266,720,684 pounds washed and unwashed, or 111,661,581 pounds of scoured wool. The aggregate clip of the six New England States is about 1,745,025 pounds of scoured wool, of which Massachusetts furnishes 128,960 pounds.

The general conditions surrounding the citp of 1898 show surprisingly little variation from those which prevailed the previous year. The visible supply of wool is now put at 537,309,125.

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